



INSPECTING INSECTS

GET READY

Of the 63 endemic species on Catalina, 45 of them are invertebrates! The term 'endemic' refers a species that is unique and only exists in a limited area. Catalina's endemic fox relies on endemic invertebrates like the scarab beetle and the Jerusalem cricket as part of its diet.

CAREER CONNECTION

A scientist that studies insects is an entomologist. Entomology is a branch of zoology, which is the study of animals.

WHAT YOU NEED

You can study insects with just your eyes and a little patience! For extra help, you may want to bring:

- * Magnifying glass or hand lens
- * Bug box with magnifying lid
- * Binoculars
- * Notebook & Pencil



TRY THIS:

Anyone can observe insects! All you need is access to the out of doors and ability to view small objects.

Step 1: Find a Place to Observe

This can be in your backyard or any approved outdoor space. We suggest an area with some dirt and/or plants.

Step 2: Look and Listen Carefully

Many insects like to be in cool, dark places. Look underneath a rock or branch on the ground. Some insects, like pollinators, have wings. Try sitting near flowers. You might hear an insect before you see it.

Step 3: Record Your Observations

Write or draw the types of insects you observed. When Jean-Henri Fabre was young, he did not know the names of the insects he saw, so he compared them to other objects. Try comparing the insects you drew to something else.



WHAT YOU DISCOVERED:

Entomologists study insects life cycles, behaviors, and distribution. Can you add some information to your journal notes about which insects you saw in a group, like ants, and which insects you saw by themselves, like a beetle. What were the insects that you saw doing? Were they crawling or carrying anything? Were they flying in the open or burying themselves in the ground? All this information is useful!



EXPLORE FURTHER:

Insects make up more than half of the living organisms on Earth. They have adapted and evolved to be able to survive for millions of years! Choose one of the insects you saw and use your bug box to help you get a closer look. What features does the insect have? Does it have long legs? Does it have a fuzzy body? Why do you think it would have adapted those features over time?